AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 2, 5 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A paint composition for thermal drying, which comprises an emulsion having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower and organic fine particles having a mean particle diameter of 15 μm or smaller, wherein the organic fine particles exhibit high hardness, have a glass transition temperature of higher than 50°C, are crosslinked substances, and do not melt or decompose during thermal drying of the paint composition.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein said emulsion is formed by emulsion polymerizing a monomer component with a reactive emulsifier.

4. (Previously presented) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein said emulsion has a glass transition temperature of -50 to 40°C.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled).

7. (New) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion has a gel fraction of 0 to 45 mass %, measured with a toluene solvent.

8. (New) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the emulsion is such that when it is formulated into a dampening coating formulation, the loss factor (loss tangent: tan σ) of the dampening coating formulation is not less than 0.15.

9. (New) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the organic fine particle is (meth)acrylic acid base emulsion or polymethyl (meth) acrylate-based crosslinked substances.

10. (New) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature (Tg) of the organic fine particle is 60°C or higher.

11. (New) The paint composition for thermal drying according to claim 1, wherein a blending amount of the emulsion having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower in the paint composition for thermal drying is set in such a way that a solid matter content of the emulsion having a glass transition temperature of 50°C or lower is 7 mass % or more with respect to 100 mass % of the paint composition for thermal drying and 50 mass % or less.